

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: A COMPARATIVE CASE STUDY OF MUSIC

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN MOTHERS AND INFANTS

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The purpose of this study was to examine the music interactions between mothers and young infants. Research questions included: 1) What type of musical interactions took place in the mother/infant relationship? and 2) What importance did mothers place on musical interactions within the family structure? Data included interviews, observations, and participant e-journals. Findings suggested the following: a) mothers placed importance on the role of music in learning; b) music interactions assisted the mothers in establishing positive home environments, bonding with their infants, and passing on and creating family traditions; c) music interactions in the mother/infant relationship were plentiful and labeled as important to family life; and d) mothers valued sharing music experiences with their infants. Research implications on music education included acknowledging the importance of the parent as teacher and aiding educators in helping parents continue teaching their children about music.